Oswald F.B.I. Threat Destroyed After Kennedy Died, Kelley Says

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (UPI)—A threatening note that Lee Harvey Oswald delivered to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Dallas several days before the assassination of President Kennedy apparently was destroyed shortly after the slaying, Clarence M. Kelley, the bureau's director, said today.

The note warned a bureau agent not to attempt further interviews with Oswald's wife, Marina, Mr. Kelley said in a statement. It did not mention President Kennedy and, he maintained, in no way "would have forewarned of the subsequent assassination."

Mr. Kelley said that the F.B.I. recently began inquiring about the 12-year-old incident after receiving information about it from The Dallas Times Herald. The agency previously had "no information concerning this visit and note" in its records, he said, and an internal investigation is continuing.

In Dallas Office

Mr. Oswald apparently visited the Dallas office "as the result of an interview by an F.B.I. agent of his wife, Marina," in connection with an investigation by the agency of Oswald prior to the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, Mr. Kelley said.

"Oswald left a note addressed to this agent and, although recollections vary as to the wording of the note, it was for the purpose of warning the agent to desist from further interviews of his wife," Mr. Kelley said.

He said "inquiries tend to corroborate that shortly after the assassination the note in question was destroyed," but he did not say by whom.

The Times Herald, in a copyright article today, quoted sources within the bureau as saying that the note did not cause Oswald to be placed under active surveillance, and personnel in the Dallas office who knew about the note "have kept the incident secret for almost 12 years."

'Seemed Routine'

The newspaper, identifying the agent who had interviewed Mrs. Oswald as James P. Hosty Jr., said that the director then, J. Edgar Hoover, and a former Dallas agent, J. Gordon Shanklin, probably were unaware of the incident. Mr. Hosty now is in the Kansas City office of the bureau.

One Times Herald source said: "We did not tell the police or other protective agencies about it...it seemed routine at the time of the visit. "Nuts and threatening mail come in all the time. The letter didn't threaten Kennedy."

The newspaper said that the bureau was investigating wether there were "possible criminal violations in connection with the destruction of the note and the failure to report its existence."

The Warren Report on the assassination said that the F.B.I. visit to the Oswald home was part of a routine check on persons who had lived in Communist nations. Oswald and his wife, a Russian, lived in the Soviet Union in the early nineteen sixties.

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